

The Fruit of the Spirit is **JOY**

Issue 20

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

December 2014

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5: 22-23



The Gift of Advent Time

By Susan Pinter, Spiritual Director

We know that our existence now is in time, but our souls are immortal. The Greek word *chronos* means the sequential flow of time in which we live. The Greek word *kairos* means "the appointed time or God's time". All of us have experienced a *kairos* moment. A moment that seems to be endless, a moment that seems to be pivotal, a moment where time stands still, a moment where we are totally unaware of the passage of time. Is this our soul reaching out to touch eternity? God exists outside of time; he had no beginning and he has no end. He is the Alpha and the Omega.

Advent means coming or arrival. In Advent we wait for the coming of the Incarnate God, the birth of Jesus into our *chronos* time. God, who exists in eternity, chose to enter into his own creation of time. Waiting is so hard. The Jewish people waited for a savior, Mary waited for the time for her child to be born. This year's Advent is just beginning. How will we wait? Can we be still amid the holiday rush and be in a *kairos* moment with God? Make quiet times for prayer and meditation to prepare your heart for the gift. Being in relationship with God means creating the time spaces for both talking with and listening to God.



Allen Holley carrying the cross.

Ann Voskamp in her book, "The Greatest Gift", says "I don't want a Christmas you can buy. I don't want a Christmas you can make. What I want is a Christmas you can hold. A Christmas that holds me. Remakes me. Revives me. I want a Christmas that whispers, Jesus."

Give JOY Through Outreach :

Visit the St. Mark's Advent "Giving Tree"

By Arlene Rivenes

This season, we will direct our attention to Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CAFB) whose mission is to *provide a voice, heal the hurt, and break the cycle* of abuse and neglect for children in Fort Bend County. Child abuse is a big and growing problem, and we all need to become aware of the national statistics about this "silent" epidemic.



On Sunday, November 23rd, a white Christmas tree was placed in our new Parish Hall. It is our "giving tree" this season,

and it will be for CAFB. On this tree, you will see gift requests attached to the tree with blue ribbons. The blue ribbon used by CAFB symbolizes support for child abuse prevention across the country. Please choose a request card and place your gift on the table provided. Both St. Mark's Church and St. Mark's School are invited to participate in these outreach efforts. Gifts will be delivered to CAFB on **December 16th** to add Christmas joy to victims. We who participate will know in our hearts that we have done a good thing for a child.

Share Love and Kindness Through the JOY of Fellowship



Photo on Left: Melissa Hamon, Newcomer Coordinator, celebrates hospitality in our new Parish Hall.

Photo on Right: Ruthie Hurta, Bettye Newberry, Kathy Hynson, and Joan Hunter at the Episcopal Church Women's luncheon at The Brookwood Community.

Give JOY Through Flowers

By Dorothy Dawlearn

Throughout the year, sponsoring flowers for the altar is a wonderful way to honor loved ones, commemorate a special occasion or simply give back to the glory of God. The colorful display adds so much to the appearance of the altar.

Look for the flower calendar located on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Select a Sunday, indicate clearly what the occasion is, and your gift will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.



Barbara Scheibner and Sarah Peters, Vestry members, urge you to donate altar flowers.

The flowers adorn the altar during Sunday service and afterwards are taken to sick people or shut-ins. If there is no special occasion, the flowers can be given to the school for display at the window near the entry to the school. Distribution of the flowers is a duty of the Altar Guild.

Should you want a special arrangement contact an Altar Guild member or the church office.

On Christmas Eve red poinsettias beautifully accent the appearance of the church. Consider honoring a loved one or simply giving back to the glory of God with a poinsettia.

Giving flowers is so easy! Drop your check for \$40.00 in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Please specify that the check is for altar flowers.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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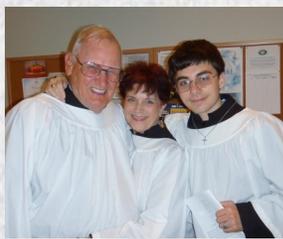
The JOY of Music at St. Mark's

Every Sunday we are blessed with the beautiful music created by Dr. Steve Godowns, our organist and choir director, and our choir members who lead us in song. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, music is especially important as an integral part of worship.

Marilyn Turner, one of our talented choir members, shared how she was inspired to sing: "My Dad and Grandmother were my inspirations. Grandma Turner, her sister, and two brothers sang in a "gospel" quartet more than 100 years ago in the Champaign, Illinois area. My Dad sang in a barbershop quartet (or two or three) sixty years ago in Oklahoma. My voice is not nearly as good, but I enjoy the harmony". Thank you to all our choir members for making a joyful noise to the Lord!



Dr. Steve Godowns, Organist
and Choir Director



Choir members Bart Little,
Marilyn Turner & Jacob
Thomas

Mark Your Calendar for JOYous Advent Happenings

- **Christmas Ornament Making**
Sunday, December 7, 2014: 10:10AM - 11:00 AM
in the Parish Hall
- **Advent Cookie Making**
Sunday, December 14, 2014: 10:10AM -11:00 AM
in the Parish Hall
- **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**
Sunday, December 14, 2014: 6:30 PM
at Calvary Episcopal Church
- **Christmas Pageant**
Wednesday, December 24, 2014: 5:30 PM
in the St. Mark's Sanctuary

When they saw the star, they
rejoiced exceedingly with great JOY.

Matthew 2:10